

3 January 1961

Ltr to
61-90

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA:

Deputy Director (Plans)

4 JAN 1961

25X1

SUBJECT:

Radio Free Europe - Crusade for Freedom

1. This memorandum suggests action on the part of the DCI. Such requested action is contained in paragraph 5.

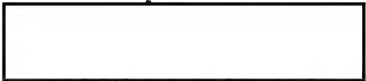
2. As you know Mr. Beverly Murphy has proposed that he meet with President-elect Kennedy next week to obtain his support of the Crusade for Freedom.

3. I am advised that the best way to arrange for such a meeting is for you to clear it with Mr. Dean Rusk and have him take it up with President-elect Kennedy when he meets with him.

These have been cleared as of 1/5/61 JCS

4. We are in the process of clearing an "exchange" of letters between the President-elect and Mr. Murphy with the Department of State. We expect that such clearance will be obtained prior to your meeting with Mr. Rusk and will so inform you. Copies of these are attached.

5. Assuming such clearance, we would like to recommend that you brief Mr. Rusk on this matter and obtain from him a time when Mr. Murphy might call on the President-elect in New York next week and formalize the exchange of letters.


CORD MEYER, JR.
Chief

25X1

International Organizations Division

cc: DDCI

Attachments:

- A - Letter to President-elect Kennedy
- B - Letter to Mr. W. B. Murphy

Honorable John F. Kennedy
Washington, D. C.

My dear President-elect Kennedy:

As voluntary national chairman of the Radio Free Europe Fund (Crusade for Freedom, Inc.) I want to express the great hope of all of us that we can have your continuing support for this vital non-partisan effort.

Crusade for Freedom, which changed its campaign name this year to Radio Free Europe Fund to avoid confusion as to its purposes, was, as you will recall, started under President Truman who has remained an enthusiastic supporter, and it has received the whole-hearted endorsement of President Eisenhower during his administration.

Our sole purpose, as you know, is to maintain the support of the American people for Radio Free Europe and its round-the-clock broadcasts of truthful information to the people in the captive nations behind the iron curtain. A copy of President Eisenhower's latest statement on the subject is enclosed. At a meeting in the White House last year the President expressed to a group of us his hope that his successor would continue to give the same personal interest to Radio Free Europe.

In February of 1958 you were good enough to make the following public statement:

"The nature of the struggle between Communism and freedom, and the deeply felt aspirations of peoples behind the iron and bamboo curtains require the freest dissemination of information regarding political and economic developments. Only by combatting false words with truth and propagating real values in contrast to false ones can the war of ideas be won.

"Crusade for Freedom and Radio Free Europe have made and will continue to make a great contribution to this important function, and I urge all to support this extremely important work."

We also remember warmly your interview during the convention in Los Angeles with a staff member of Radio Free Europe in which you set forth your views on the problems of Soviet colonialism and the plight of the captive countries.

An affirmation of your belief in the principles under which Radio Free Europe operates would be truly invaluable at this time to all of us as we now get our annual fund raising and educational campaign under way.

Sincerely,

W. B. Murphy

Attachment

Mr. W. B. Murphy
Chairman of the Board
Crusade for Freedom
Dodds Lane
Gladwyne, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Thank you for your letter on the Radio Free Europe Fund.

For many years I have supported this undertaking and the principles underlying the broadcasts of Radio Free Europe.

I believe we have no more important job than to insure that the people of all countries receive the truth so that they will be able to reach intelligent judgments.

I am happy to add my name to those of my predecessors who have endorsed your good work.

Sincerely,

John F. Kennedy

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Approved For Release 2003/01/29 : CIA-RDP80B01676R000800090081-8

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM: Chief, IO Division
2032, L Bldg.

NO.

DATE

4 January 1961

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. DD/P

4 - JAN 1961

RM/JSW
EX

It is my understanding that Mr. Rusk is meeting with President-elect Kennedy this Friday (Jan. 6). Therefore there is some urgency in this matter.

Cord Meyer, Jr.
C/IO

Mrs. [redacted] was not able to speak to Mr. Rusk on this.
Davis

5. [redacted]
6. DCI